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THE Potable Balsome OF LIFE.

Being a Collection of the choicest Preservatives that are Extant within the three Natural Families of Minerals, Vegetables, and Animals, reduced into such Essences and Tinctures by the Scientifick Art of Chymie, which constitute a Radical and Cordial Balsamick Liquor, agreeable and pleasant to the Senses, and to be taken in small proportions.

By which the Bodies which are in Health may be preserved, the growth of Distempers intercepted, and Diseases already confirmed, totally Extradicated.

Especially such as are most Predominant in Sea-bordering Nations, more particularly in ours, of which diseases you may have an account in the following pages.

Published by *P. Ballon*, Physiomathetes.

For the Publick Good, especially for those who are unhappily deprived from the great conveniency, and advantagious assistance of Learned Physitians, and that live remote from Medicaments, it being of such a Nature as meliorates it self with keeping, though it be kept a hundred Years.

All persons are desired to peruse the Book throughly, for in each Page they may meet with something which will satisfie their Curiosity. With Allowance.

Natura Universalis cum paucis principiis operatur Mirabilia, & Chimico Ingenioso pauca sunt necessaria.

London, Printed for the Author. 1675.

WHere as the Body of this *Balsum* is capable of receiving all such additions, as all Judicious and experienced Politians may judge proper for the Cure or prevention of such particular distempers, as any of the Subscribers may be most liable unto. And it being also convenient that I should have some account of the quantity of this *Balsum*, that will be vended so soon as it is finished. (that I may take my measure accordingly) All persons that are desirous to have of this *Balsum*, are invited to inform me either by word of mouth, or Letters directed to me at my Laboratory over against the *Cross-Keys* in *Bedford-street Covent-Garden*. What Medicaments they desire should be added, whereby to render that proportion which they shall please to subscribe unto, more proper for prevention of such distempers; and it shall be faithfully and carefully performed, according to their desires, in their, or any other Persons presence whom they shall appoint. Yet at no greater rate than that said best sort of *Balsum* (without additions) shall be sold to such as have not subscribed, whereby the said Subscribers will have a great advantage, both by those additions, and the certainty of having of it rightly prepared, according to the Receit, it being to be done in publique, to which advantage none other can pretend after the *Mixture* is once made.

And whereas all Persons are not willing or in a condition to go to the rate of 40 shillings a pound, for that *Balsum* which is prepared with the true Tinctures of *Gold*, *Antimony*, *Coral*, *Pearl*, *Vitriol*, and *Pearls* (as is specified in this Book) I have thought it convenient (for the general good) to prepare some of the *Balsum*, without the forementioned Tinctures, which though not so great a *Cordial*, *Preserver*, *Restorer*, and *Restorer* of Nature as the other, yet will prove as effectual for the Preservation, and Cure of those Diseases mentioned in this Book, as likewise for all outward Applications. To be had at sixteen shillings the pound. To which may be made additions, also paying the overplus for them, at very reasonable rates. And to avoid all manner of fraud and deceit, both the *Balsum* shall be delivered ready put up in bottles and sealed with my own Seal, the same as here prefixed, of which there shall be one delivered to each Subscriber for Surety.

Dignissimo

Dignissimo Viro D. D.

GEORGIO ENT,

Equiti Aurato, Collegii *Londinensis* Præsidi, nec non Censoribus & Sociis ejusdem nobilissimi Collegii.

Viri Excellentissimi, & Literarum splendore conspicui.

POst varias peregrinationes per diversos Orbis Christiani tractus, & post multos in Theoriâ & Praxi Chymicâ exantlatos labores; tandem in hoc florentissimæ Urbis beato sinu senescere, & sedem ponere constitui. Sub Deo. *Laz. Riverio* & *Theod. Mayerno* Immortalitate dignissimis Viris, Tyrocinium Chymicum exercui, quorum Autographa apud me extant; & si quemlibet Collegij curiositas videndi, & perlegendi tangat, depromptu rus. Offero vobis (Viri amplissimi & doctissimi) selecta quædam Medicamenta, gustu jucunda, visu amabilia, & in desperatis morbis profligandis efficacia. Vos estis mihi Judices, coram vestro Tribunali me sisto; & vestra præsentia in meo Chymico pistrino erit mihi honori & præsidio; fortè vobismetipsis non minori voluptati, si mihi quilibet Collegij *Londinensis* Socius adesse voluerit. In hoc consultiùs & prudentiùs me feciſſe existimo, quòd me vestræ candidæ censuræ objicerem, quàm ut Agyrtas imitarer, qui Schedulis postibus affixis, inanem Vulgi gloriam, tantùm densitate humerorum notabiles, ridiculè aucupantur. Subscribo me

Vestræ gravissimæ Societatis
Cultorem obsequentissimum

Petrum Bellonium
Lond. Natum.

Dabam ex Ædibus meis in *Platea Bedfordiensi*, oppositis Tabernæ Vinariæ, cui signum Clavium transversarum pensile.

THE PREFACE.

HAving found by a no leſs ſucceſsful then long experience, that this Specifick which I treat of, is not only proper, but effectually powerful for the Cure of divers Diſeaſes, eſpecially of thoſe which uſually afflict Maritime Countries, among the reſt, more particularly thoſe of this Kingdom, wherein the Scurvy, Dropſy, Apoplectick Palſie, Aſthma, Tabes, and the Venereal Diſeaſes do ſo much reign of late years, dayly getting ground by their impetuous Ragings, eſpecially among the Vulgar; who not regarding Rules and Methods, though never ſo much grounded upon Reaſon and Experience, are ſtill for the ſhorteſt, eaſieſt and cheapeſt ways of Cure.

I thought my ſelf obliged (through a due ſence of this ſpreading Calamity) to render this pleaſant and powerful Remedy more generally known, and in a ſhorter time, by this kind of Publication, than my ſmall acquaintance would do in many years.

The *Ingredients* that enter into this excellent *Compoſition* are ſelected from among thoſe, that the three Families of *Minerals*, *Vegetables*, and *Animals* have in them; which are moſt proper, not only for the cure of the foermentioned *Diſeaſes*, but alſo for Preſervation, Prolongation, & Renovation.

And leſt this excellent Remedy ſhould lye under the ſcandal of being ſome *upſtart Thing*, invented meerly for Lucre; and my *ſelf a Perſon* that would impoſe upon the Vulgar (as too many do) not regarding how little effectual their Medicines prove, ſo they do but thereby fill their Pockets with the Gains: I have not only (as to the practical part) declared what the Ingredients are that conſtitute this excellent Compound, and publiſhed their exquiſite Preparations; but alſo given valid reaſons for their choice, in a Theorical Diſcourſe of their *Qualities*, *Propertie*s & *Vertues*, which extend to *Preſervation* and *Renovation*. And all this done without the leaſt deſign of entrenching upon the Prerogative of the moſt Learned and Eminent College of Phiſitians; whom (with all ſubmiſſion to their Cenſure) I humbly intreat, as well as all other Ingenious Artiſts, and Lovers of this Scientifick Art, to favour me with their Opinion and Approbation of this Remedy, and honour me with their company at my Laboratory during the time of the *Operations*. To which purpoſe I ſhall give a timely and publique notice of the opening of the ſaid Laboratory. Not doubting but through this

this fair way of dealing, I may remove from this Medicine, all such prejudices, and jealousies, as things in this manner of Publication do commonly create; preserve it from all foul aspersions, raise it above those sleeke *Spurious Brats of Physick*, with which this famous Nation is but so much pester'd, and place it beyond the reach of Malice and Envy.

I shall leave it's own Vertues, and those Gentlemen that shall be Eye-witnesses of it's exquisite Preparations and Operations, to speak it's *Encomium*; and shall only say, that though it sets not forth so large a Catalogue of Ingredients as the *Theriaca Andromachi*, Sr. *Walter Rawleigh's* great *Cordial* or such like *long* but *most excellent Compositions*: Yet in that *Few* is sufficiently comprehended, what is requisite to effect those several operations, which I mention in this small Treatise, not omitting Preservation and Renovation.

It is this excellent Specifick, which I humbly present to the publique, for the general good of this Kingdom, thinking all my studies and labours well rewarded if I prove in this effectually serviceable to my Country, and so esteemed by the Learned Virtuosi; to whom I wish all health and increase of Knowledg.

Of the Preparations of each particular Ingredient and first of the Dissolvant

BY reason that these Preparations are to be made through the medium of Dissolvants, which are the material Instruments of such Chymical Preparations, I thought it necessary in the first place, to give an accompt of that *Menstruum*, which I have made choice of for this work.

It is obscurely set down by *Ramundus Lullius* in his Works, but because it is not to be comprehended so as he has writ it by every vulgar capacity, I have thought it convenient to explain it here, that those Persons who have the least insight in *Chymie*, might understand it's most exquisite and elaborated Preparations.

The Receit is thus.

Take of the strongest and best Claret-wine one Hogs-head, out of which you must extract the spirit after the common manner, rectifying it to a perfect purity, let the rest of the liquor be distilled by it self, so draw of the Phlegm by the vaporous or ashee heat, until it remains of the colour of Pitch, and in consistence of a thick syrup, at the bottom of the Vessel. This black substance distribute into several Glasse Bodies, and pour over it the Phlegm, till it overtops the Black substance, the hight of four or five fingers breadth. Set them upon warm ashes and in few days the Phlegm will be tinged with a red colour, by attracting to it self the combustible Sulphur from the impure fæces of the Wine. Let the tinged Phlegm be separated by inclination, and fresh Poured upon the matter, repeating this labour

labour till the feces yeild no more Tincture, and that what remains in the bottom be white and Chrystalline. Set this Chrystalline substance in several Matrasses with long necks, and pour over it the rectifyed spirit of Wine till it overswims it by three fingers breadth; apply to these Matrasses fit heads and Receivers, well joined with a proper Lute for the purpose, and set them on warm Ashes, that the matter may distil, Cohobating diverse times that which is distilled. All being cold, let it be poured out by Inclination, without raising the sediment, then pour upon the Feces more of the spirit, and thus reiterate so often, that the Feces which through their proper nature *Calcine* themselves, begin to grow black, and smoak when layd upon a red-hot plate of iron; which is a sure sign that the first *Philosophical Calcination* is accomplished, & the Spirit already fully animated with that acid Balsum & Ferment of Nature, that was contained in these *Faces* which were reduced into *Chrystals*. Joine all these animated Spirits together, and preserve them in some close stopp'd Vessel, for fear of Evaporation.

Set the remaining *Faces* in small Matrasses with long necks, which seal up Hermetically, and set in sand, in an *Athanor* Furnace, so that flame may be given round the Vessel, continue the fire five or six days, till the Earth be throughly calcined, fixed, and changed as white as snow. The which to render more volatile again, divide and distribute into several *Cucurbits*, pouring upon them the fourth part of the aforementioned Spirit of Wine, apply their heads and Receivers well joined and Lured, and set all in a wet *Bath*, luke-warm during one days space, from whence transport them afterwards on ashes, and with a competent heat draw off the Liquor, which from very fiery and sharp that it was, will come off as insipid as spring-water; by reason that the abovementioned Spirit hath then deposited it's *Balsamick* Salt in that of the Lime, which Salt did ascend in the former operations with the Spirit. *Nam Natura Naturam amat, eamque sequitur in sua Natura.*

Pour upon the *Calx* or Lime the same proportion of other animated Spirits as before, observing the same order in the Distillation, till you find by your taste that in the distillation, that Spirit comes over as strong, as it was poured on, which will be a sign that the fixed Salt hath retained as much as needs, or as it can contain of the Volatile Salt. Observe that if you have weighed your Maters at first; you will find them trebly augmented in weight, which ought to be diligently noted, in order to the *Sublimation* and last operation, that the Volatile may exceed and overcome the fix.

Set all your Matter in diverse little bodies of the shape of Sublimatories, adding their Heads and Receivers to receive the sulphurious spirituous humidity, distil this in Ashes with a gentle fire, during a whole day, then augment the fire by degrees, till at last (towards the end) the fire be in a degree of Sublimation, which continue so, during 18 or 20 hours, and till that the Vessels appear no longer filled with Whitish Fumes; then will you find the Matter sublimed sticking on the sides of the Glasses Pure, Clear, and Transparent, like unto Pearls or Talk.

Take this Sublimed Matter, and make it into Pouder in a Glass or marble Mortar, put it into a *Matrass*, and pour over it of the Sulphurious Spirit, moistning it little by little, and concocting them 3 or 4 days in an *Athanor* Furnace, with a pretty strong fire, and thus you will have the *Menstruum*.

Concerning

Concerning the *Radical* diſſolution of *Gold*.

When I ſhall have told you that the Preparation of the *Diſſolvant* for Gold, was given me by an Adeptus under the ſeal of ſecrecy, and confirmed with an Evangelical Oath, I hope there is none that bears the name of a Chriſtian, but will diſpence with me for making publique, what I ought to keep for ever locked up in the Cabinet of my breaſt; yet preſuming upon that limited Liberty which was then allowed me, and that others make uſe of when they treat of ſuch Secrets. I will here ſet down in an Allegorical ſenſe (though intelligible enough to thoſe that are Maſters) the whole proceſs as follows.

Rep. *Glaciei ſolubilis Gemmarum q. ſ. imponatur Crucibulo ſuper ignem per 6 vel 7 horas, dein remoto igne, Crucibulo fracto, recipe tuam mutuam calcinatam et vitro retorto inde, ſuperfundendo ſpermatis Fermenti Univerſalis dimidiam partem, & cum Recipiente capaci, in quâ ſit circiter quarta pars aqua communis, firmiter lutetur, deinde augendo ignem per gradus diſtilletur ad materiæ ſiccitatem. Tunc frange retortam & calcinatum tuum inde retorto Ferreo recipiento adapta, deturq; ignis vehementiſſimus apertus, donec ad perfectam diſtilletur ſiccitatem, quod ſepties rectificatum ſervatur ad uſus; Poſtea R. Speculi Philoſophici, cum ſudore Achillis, ſanguine Veneris, et Adami pituita Philoſophicè per Vulcanum impregnati partes duas. Ignis terræ partem unam, Purifica in Balneo ad perfectiſſimum ſplendorem; deinde ſumito de iſtâ purificatâ materiâ et de aqua non madefaciente manus ad partes æquales. Ingrediantur apertum Ignis Balneum per aliquot horas, quando ſatis fuſaverint, obducantur cum tegmine, ne à frigore intercipiantur, quieſcant iſto modo per horas quatuor, nox quando lentè refrixerint, excipiantur, ex Balneo ſicco, & cum pradicto liquore, ſubtepido, in Balneo liquido fovcantur, & maneant in humectatione iſta per ſemidiem, deinde parata lecto, clauſâ tecto, Cogar ex Balneo, in gremium Quietis.*

Thus have I (though obſcurely) yet faithfully ſet down this great *Menſtruum*, which if any Son of Art underſtands, let him enjoy it with thanks, and in a Perpetual ſilence.

Take of this *Diſſolvant* (which the *Philoſophers* call their *Mercurius Philoſophorum*) 9 parts, add to them of Laminated Gold, cemented with *Antimony* one part. Leave them together in a Matrals without heat, and in 24 hours, the Gold will be diſſolved. Cloſe the glaſs Hermetically, (or adding a blind head to it) ſet it to digeſt and Circulate in a gentle lamp heat during a Philoſophical moneth. Then having Poured off the Tincture into a ſmall glaſs retort, draw off the *Menſtruum*, till the ſaffron of the Gold remain almoſt dry. Pour upon it of the *Vegetable Menſtruum* to the hight of three fingers breadth, having ſtopped the Glaſs and luted it very well, ſet them in digeſtion during 10 or 12 days, and it will be totally Impregnated and the *Crocus* of Gold wholly diſſolved in it, which is to be kept in a Glaſs well ſtopped for Uſe.

Of

The Preparation of *Vitriol* and *Pearls*.

Take of the Vitriols of *Mars* and *Venus*, of each a ſufficient quantity, and by reiterated diſſolutions and coagulations, purify them from all their Terreſtrial parts; then put them in a Glaſs retort with 4 ounces of Pearls, and diſtil them, ſtill pouring what is diſtilled upon its fæces, till they have imbued and drank up all the humidity, and you will find in the retort an excellent Red Colcother joyned with the calcined Pearl, reduce all in pouder, and pour upon it of the accuated Vegetable Menſtruum, to the height of three fingers breadth, this mixture put into a Glaſs retort, diſtil it in a Naked Fire during three or four days, ſave all the Liquor by it ſelf, and extract with common water the diſſoluble Magiſter of the Pearles out of the red Fæces, which keep apart, then take the diſtilled liquor, and from it diſtil off the accuated *Menſtruum*, and there will remain in the bottom of the Lembick a Balſamick Liquor as red as blood, to which add the Magiſter of the Pearls and the accuated *Vegetable Menſtruum*, and circulate altogether during 40. days, and you will find your Liquor as red as blood, ſweet, and without Fæces in the bottom.

Of the Preparation of *Antimony*.

Baſilicus Valentinus in his *Currus Triumphalis Antimonii* does teach how to make an excellent Tincture of *Antimony*, of which he ſays; none but thoſe that have tryed it can beleive it's wonderful Vertues. Yet in my opinion that which is ſet down by *Zwelfer* in his *Apendix ad Animadverſionem pag.* 72, is to be prefer'd to this in reſpect of it's moſt excellent *Diſſolvant*, which for that very reaſon I have made choice of, and this it is.

Take of the beſt pulveriz'd Vertdegris q.ſ. which put into a Glaſs Limbeck, over which pour diſtilled Vinegar the hight of three fingers breadth, then after a competent time for digeſtion, when the Vinegar is well ſaturated with the Tincture, pour it off by Inclination, and pour upon the Vertdegris ſome other diſtilled Vinegar, digeſt it as before, and then pour of the Tinged Vinegar as before, repeating this work till the laſt Vinegar poured upon the Vertdegris will attract no more Tincture, and that the ſubſtance of the Vertdegris be almoſt totally diſſolved. Let all theſe filtrated diſſolutions be put together in a Limbeck or Copper pan and evaporated with a gentle fire, till there appears a film on the ſuperficies of the liquor, then ſet it in a cold place to Chryſtalize, part the Chryſtals from the liquor, and dry them with a gentle heat, exhalate again the remaining liquor a little, and gather the Chryſtals as before, and thus continue to operate, till it be almoſt all converted into Chryſtals.

Theſe Chryſtals being afterwards Put into a Limbeck, pour upon them of good rectifyed ſpirit of Wine, a ſufficient quantity to overflow the matter the hight of three fingers breadth, diſtil it off again, and this repeat twice

twice or thrice for their better Impregnation and volatilization. Theſe Chryſtals being pulveriz'd, put into a Glaſs retort, luted, to which fit a Receiver, and diſtil it by degrees, in an open but gentle fire, until all the ſpirit be drawn off, which is to be very well rectifyed, by an Alimbeck in a ſand Furnace.

This *Menſtruum* being Perfected thus, take of Glaſs of *Antimony* prepared by it ſelf, ſo much as you pleaſe, make it into a very fine Pouder, and pour upon it, to the height of three fingers breadth of this *Menſtruum*, ſet it in digeſtion in a gentle heat without any agitation, until the Spirit be Tinged with a yellow or reddiſh colour, pour this off by Inclination, and pour on ſome new, this repeat ſo often, as you find the Spirit Tinged after ſome time of digeſtion, (which will be after the ſecond or third time) Theſe tinged Spirits muſt be put in a Limbeck and drawn off not to a perfect drineſs, but that there be ſome ſmall proportion of liquor remaining behind; upon which pour of the actuated *Vegetable Menſtruum* q.ſ. which will be inſtantly imbued with a deep red colour, which muſt be ſeparated by filtration from the groſs and Terreſtrious yellowneſs. Then draw off again part of the Spirit, or Tinged *Menſtruum*, and the reſt will remain of a moſt excellent and bright red colour, which Keep for Uſe.

The Preparation of *Vipers*.

Take *Vipers* No. xx. of the *Actuated Vegetable Menſtruum* lIvſs. Put thoſe *Vipers* living and whole in the *Menſtruum* in a *Matraſs* with a long neck, to which you muſt fit a head and receiver, and there let them remain till they be ſuffocated, and after a due digeſtion draw off half the quantity of the *Menſtruum* in B. M. the other half pour off by decantation, then pour over them the remainder of the diſtilled *Menſtruum*, & after digeſtion, diſtil again half of it, and the remaining part Pour off as before, which muſt be very hard Preſs'd from the *Vipers*, and joined with the firſt Tinctured *Menſtruum*, then filtrate them through Paper, and keep them cloſe ſtopped.

Take thoſe *Vipers* very well dried, ſo that they may be eaſily crumbled into a groſs pouder with the hands, ſet them in a glaſs retort, to which fit and lute a large Receiver, diſtil them in an open fire obſerving the degrees of heat, till all that is in the retort be driven over through the violence of a Flame fire. The diſtillation ended, the Volatil Salt will be found partly diſſolved in the Water contained in the receiver, and Partly adherent round the ſides of the receiver, in various forms which is to be waſhed off with the ſaid water, then ſeparate it from it's fatid Oyl through a filter of paper. This Volatile Salt is to be ſeparated afterwards from it's ſtinking and better water by a gentle Sublimation in a long-neck'd Glaſs, with it's Head and Receiver, ſo that the humidity mount not with the Salt.

Join this Volatile Salt to the forementioned Eſſence of *Vipers*, which ſet to digeſt in a glaſs well ſtopped, during two or three days, and ſo you'l have the *Preparation* of *Vipers*.

The Preparation of *Coral*.

Take of red *Coral* ſo much as you Pleaſe, make it into very fine Pouder upon a Porphiry, and having put it in a Matraſs with a long neck, pour over it to the height of three fingers breadth of the ſpirit of *Venus* deſcribed in the *Preparation* of *Antimony*, ſet it to diſgeſt till it is very well impregnated, with the Tincture of the *Coral*. Then pour it off gently, and pour on ſome freſh Spirit, this repeat till the *Coral* will afford no more Tincture, then take all the Tinged Spirit, and diſtil it off almoſt to dryneſs, then pour over the remaining Tincture, as much of the actuated *Menſtruum*, as will be requiſite to take up the Tincture, which keep for Uſe cloſe ſtopped.

The Preparation of the *Sarſa*, *China*, *Saffron*, *Roſemary* and *Lavender Flowers*.

This Preparation is ſo common and eaſy that few words will ſerve to demonſtrate it.

Take the *Sarſa* and *China*, and after the uſual manner ſlit them and ſlice them in to very thin pieces, but leave the flowers whole, put all into a Matraſs with a long neck, pour over them the height of three fingers breadth of the *Vegetable Accuated Menſtruum*. Stop well the Glaſs, ſet it to digeſt in a gentle heat, and when the *Menſtruum* is throughly Tinged, pour it off by Decantation, pour new *Menſtruum* upon the Materials, digeſt it as before, and when well Tinged, Decant as before, and ſo you will have the true *Preparation* of the *Roots* and *Flowers*.

The Preparation of the *Gumm Guajacum*.

Though this *Gumm* ſeems ſo pure and clear from all droſs that it requires none other purification, yet in the Preparation of it, there are found ſuch Terreſtrial parts, as require a ſeparation from the Tincture after this manner.

Take of that *Gumm* q. ſ. pouder it very fine, and put it into a Matraſs with a long neck, pour upon it to the hight of three fingers breadth of the *Accuated Vegetable Menſtruum*. Cloſe the Veſſel, ſet it to digeſt in a gentle heat a day or two, then gently pour off the Tinged *Menſtruum*; in which all the Reſinous and Balſamick part of the *Gumm* is diſſolved, which keep for Uſe cloſe ſtopped.

The Preparaion of *Myrrh*.

Is after the ſame manner, as of the *Gumm Guajacum*, therefore I refer you to that.

The

The Compoſition of the *Balſum*.

The Ingredients being all duly and rightly prepared as has been ſaid, every one according to what their Nature and Quality did require. It is time to come to the *Compoſition*, conſiſting in the true proportioning of their reſpective Doſes, and the Mixture of the ſeveral Preparations, which take as follows.

Take of the Tincture of *Gumm Guajacum* ℥ij, of the Tincture of *Myrrh* ℥ſs; of the Tincture of the Roots and Flowers, the ſame as of *Myrrh*, of the Eſſence of *Vipers* ℈vi, of the Tincture of *Coral* ℈iiij, of the Tincture of *Antimony* ℈ij, of the ſweet Red Oyle of *Vitriol* impregnated with the diſſoluble Magiſtery of Pearls, as much as of the Tincture of *Antimony*, and of the Tincture of *Gold* ℈ij.

Pour theſe into a capacious Matraſs with a long neck, add to it a blind head, and ſet it in digeſtion in a gentle heat, during two or three days.

Here is the Compoſition of the Excellent *Balſum* of *Life* proper for a general uſe, which will keep hundreds of years, fitto receive any Medicinal addition, provided it be firſt prepared, according as it's Nature and Quality ſhall require and diſſolv'd in our *Menſtruum*, For none other being ſo purely ſpiritualized as this, thoſe wateriſh particles which others would introduce into theſe other pure Tinctures, would cauſe them immediately to precipitate to the bottom in a milkie white ſubſtance, to the great detriment of the Accidental, and ſome Prejudice to the Eſſential form of this *Specifick Balſamick Liquor*.

Reaſons for the Election of the *Ingredients* which conſtitute this *Balſum*; of their Natures, Properties, and Virtues. Firſt concerning the *Menſtruum*.

Amongſt the *Chymiſts* the word *Menſtruum* is given to any Liquor, either Natural or Artificial, Simple or Compound, which is uſed for the diſſolution of any Mixt; and in that reſpect common Water may be ſo termed, But this word is reſtrained to ſuch Liquors, as are of power to diſunite, open, and diſſolve, the *Mucilaginous, Reſinous Saline, and Balſamick* parts of whatſoever lyes hid in Natural Productions, as alſo to extract and retain their reſpective Tinctures.

There are variety of theſe *Menſtruums*, according to the diverſe qualities of matters to be diſſolved, and the Inventions of Ingenious and laborious Artiſts. There being but few Maſters in this Scientifick Art, but have ſome peculiarly due to their own fortunate Stars, and Induſtry.

Of theſe *Menſtruums* ſome are made of the Juices of fruits, as of Lemons, Pomgranats, Barberies, and the like; but the chiefeſt amongſt them are ſuch as are prepared of the Juice of the Grape, namely Spirit of Wine and Vinegar. Others are extracted of ſome parts and excre-

ments of Animals, as out of Bloud, Urine, the fæcal Matter, and the like. Others are prepared from *Minerals* and *Metals*, as out of *Vitriol*, *Common Salt*, *Nitre*, *Antimony*, *Mercury*, *Venus*, *Saturne*, and the like. To theſe *Menſtruums* I may add by themſelves ſuch as are extracted out of Hony, May-Dew, they being kind of *Meteors* not to be properly ranged under any of the forementioned Claſſes.

By a ſympathetick influence thoſe which are extracted from *Vegetables*, are moſt proper for the extraction of *Vegetables*, and ſo it is with thoſe extracted from *Animals*, *Minerals*, and *Metals*: Yet this rule is not ſo abſolute, but that ſome of theſe *Menſtruums* are uſed promiſcuouſly one for another, but that which is moſt general is the Spirit of Wine.

This Spirit is call'd the *Incorruptible Eſſence*, the *Water* of *Life*, the *Key* of the *Philoſophers*, the *Univerſal Liquor* or *Balſum*, the *Philoſophers Sulphur* and *Mercury* of the *Vegetables*, the *Pearly Matter*, and the Author of this *Menſtruum* has given it the name of *Accuated Menſtruum*, or *Heaven* of the *Vegetables*, with which he was us'd to extract the true Tincture of Gold. And by the *Philoſophers* it was termed that Fire of Nature, as much concealed as Celebrated amongſt them, who unanimouſly ſay, *Ignis & Azot tibi ſufficiunt*. Theſe and diverſe other ſuch Denominations too tedious to relate, are ſufficient to declare, that this Spirit is the fitteſt Liquor of all thoſe which are either Natural or Artificial that is capable of extracting the Vertues of whatſoever is infuſed and digeſted in it, without the loſs of its ſeminal Faculties, and leaving behind any reliques of their Middle *Lives* Vertue. Whoſoever is acquainted with this Spirit will acknowledge it to have a moſt piercing Vertue, yet not of ſo hot a Nature as is imagined by the Vulgar, ſince it reſolves the hotteſt and hardeſt Tumours, allays the pains of burning, and takes away any inflammations. It's Incorruptible Nature renders it in great eſteem, both becauſe it preſerves it ſelf, and all other Beings Animated or Inanimated.

This Spirit of Wine is Simple or Compound, I call that Simple, which is extracted by bare Diſtillation, without any further addition. And by the Compound, I mean that which is Eſſencified and impregnated with its Eſſential Salt, and amongſt all of that kind is that which I have choſen for the preparation of thoſe Matters, which compound this *Balſum* of *Life*. Namely the Accuated Vegetable Heaven of *Raymundus Lullius* heretofore deſcribed.

The reaſons why I have preferr'd this *Menſtruum* before all others, to be the Vehicle for communicating the Vertues of this *Balſum* into humane bodies, are, becauſe it will extract the Tincture from all things by deveſting them of their Accidental Forms, and yet preſerving their ſubſtantial ones, which ſpeaks it the moſt proper Liquor of all ſuch as are capable of extracting the Vertues of thoſe Mixts which conſtitute this Compound. Beſides this its intrinſecal qualities and Vertues have invited me to this Election; for it is not only of power to convey and communicate the Vertues of all Mixts annexed to it, but through its own penetrating *Balſamick* Eſſence, does open and diſſolve all obſtructions, drives forth all Heterogeneal particles, cleanſeth, healeth, and ſtrenghneth the inflamed, and debilitated internal and external parts, and corroborates the whole body; and thus *Natura corroborata eſt omnium morborum Medicatrix*.

Thus

Thus much concerning the Vertues, qualities, and choice of this *Menſtruum*, before all others, though eaſier to be made, and now a few words concerning

Gold and it's *Diſſolvant*.

Gold is the moſt perfect *Child* of the Earth, the *Ne plus ultrà* of the *Mineral Power*. It is a yellow, moſt ſolid and compact Metal, compounded of ſuch principals as are fix, permanent, and digeſted in a moſt *Sovereign* degree, as it's incorruptibility does manifeſt. It's call'd by ſome the Sun, not only by reaſon of it's great Correſpondency and harmonious Relation with the *Celeſtial Sun* of the great World, but for it's Sympathy and Affinity alſo, with the Sun of the little World the *Heart* of *Man*. Its fixidity, purity, and moſt excellent Cordial Vertues, makes it wholly dedicated to the Heart, who is the Operator of all the Noble Functions of life. It is not only a moſt Sovereign Cordial, by reeſtabliſhing and augmenting the *Radical Moiſture* and *Natural Heat*, but it is alſo an excellent *Purifier* of the *Blood*, diſperſing and driving forth by ſenſible and inſenſible Tranſpirations, that which is Heterogeneous and corrupted in the whole Body, which are the reſults of the diverſe alterations of the blood, tending to Corruption and Putrefaction, and Conſequently to the deſtruction of that ſubject, who it ought to Vivify and Nouriſh.

Notwithſtanding thoſe exquiſit intrinſecal qualities and virtues, it is the opinion of ſome, that Gold cannot preſerve nor renovate by reaſon of his compactedneſs which is ſuch as not to be ſo diſſolved, but that it may be reduced to a Metalline ſubſtance again, and that by conſequence never better Imployed or more of uſe than when it is deſolved in the devouring Menſtruum of an over gorged Kitchin, an overflowing Celler, and of exorbitant and Gorgeous Apparel (all which be dayly found to be moſt radical diſſolvants.)

To which I ſhall only ſay that there are none never ſo meanly verſed in Chymie, but know that Gold can be ſo opened, through the operations in that Art, as to be capable of producing ſome good effects upon our Bodies, although reducible again to its Matallick Body. This is eaſy to be demonſtrated, by the example of other metallick bodyes, which are reſolved into Salts or Vitriolls, as Silver, Copper, Tin, Lead, and Iron, all which may be reduced again into Metalls, which hinders not the dayly and ſucceſsful uſe of them, by learned and eminent Phyſitians, who are invited thereunto by the dayly diſcoveries of thoſe admirable effects, which ſuch open Metals produce in Cronical diſeaſes, even upon the moſt obſtinate and deepeſt rooted, and complycated amongſt them, all theſe metallick vitriols having different taſts, various colours, as alſo ſome peculiar ſpecifick virtue, as appears by their various effects. If Gold being opened and prepared by the means of a powerful Menſtruum ſo as to be reduced into a Vitriolick Salt, having its peculiar Colour, Taſte, and ſpecifick virtues, is adminiſtred into our Bodies, why may I not conclude it to be of force and virtue to renovate and operate divers other wonderful effects, and conſequently not to be debared

bared from Physical use, for no other reason then meerly its reducibility into metal again, not but that I know, that if this Metal was once so opened and radically dissolved as never to be reduced into Metal again by any Art, it would then be more efficacious, for Gold thus volatilized, and spiritualized, does acquire a more ample sphear of activity and virtue, but this ought not to debar us from the use of its meaner preparations, especially such as have been known by a long experience to be effectual in their operations, for the prevention and cure of diseases in humane Bodies.

But by reason that the more radically Gold is opened, the greater effects it must consequently operate, I have made choice of such a Menstruum, which through its simpathy, and great affinity with Gold, does so radically dissolve it, that though it may be reduced in part, into a metallick substance, yet not without a sensible decay of its weight after, every dissolution, which in succes of time by reiterated dissolutions & circulations, might so radically dissolve the whole as never to be reduced again into Gold or any other metallick substance.

One property that this dissolvant has, which in my opinion cannot be paraleld, is that, though it be so powerful upon Gold, dissolving it without external heat, inward corrosion, freting, ebullition, or raising of any fumes, scum, and bubbles, (but just as wax would do in warm water) yet it will not so much as touch any other Metal, Mineral, Linnen, Woollen, or any other thing, being so far from corroding, that those parts of my Cloths or skin that have been accidentally wetted and imbued, with this dissolvant, have proved as sound in the wareing as any other parts of my Apparel, and my hands not in the least offended, which proves its operation upon Gold to proceed from an Analogical consent of parts and by sympathy, but after the dissolution of the Gold in it, it tinges all things of a most glorious purpurine colour, which Evidently shews that the said Menstruum is sufficiently saturated with the central sulphur of the Gold, which yields that colour.

So soon as I shall have prepared this dissolvant, which will take up six Weeks Labour, in which time I hope to have all the other operations required in this composition, I shall present to publick view this as delightful, as exquisite dissolution of Gold, to all such as will favour me with their visits at the Laboratory, to which they shall at all times be very welcom, especially such as are desirous to communicate with me about some particuler additions to the Balsum, according to their Physitians orders, whom I advise all Persons to consult very well before they repair to me.

Gold thus prepared yields its Tincture in any Liquor, which Tincture of a most acerb & austere tast, does operate as variously as pleasantly, for sometimes it has been known to Purge by Stools, sometimes (though very rare) by Vomits, frequently by Urines and Sweats, but most commonly by no visible outward effects, but then its Virtues are sensibly felt, in augmenting the strength of the Sick, reviving the Spirits, chearing the Heart, and by Corroborating of the Viscera, and the whole Body. To speak in few words, its innumerable Virtues, I shall conclude with *Quercetans*

cetans own words, *Ad innumerabiles morbos fere incredibilis videtur virtutis.* Thus I conclude with the moſt noble of Metals, to ſpeak ſomething of the beſt of Minerals.

Of Vitriol.

That there is an Univerſal Spirit, or Spirit of the World which God hath Eſtabliſhed for the continuance of the ſpecies, which Spirit gives Life to all beings, is a truth that is paſt diſputing, but what this ſpirit is, in what ſubſtance incorporated, and how communicated, is that which but few underſtand.

Yet moſt of the Eminents Phyloſophers ſay, that the external green and Azurine colours of Vitriol, and its inward acide declare it to be that ſubtle juice of the Earth, which is the ſole cauſe of that Univerſal fermentation which preceeds all natural Productions, even as leaven to Flower and Water. The ſulphur contained in the ſaid Vitriol being the Spirit and Ferment which opens and unites, gathereth and coagulates the divers vapours which are in the Earth, and according to their reſpective matrices, formes them into Vegetables, Minerals or Metallick Subſtances.

In Vitriol, *Venus* is moſt apparent, and therefore moſt Ingeniouſly Feigned by thoſe Poets that were Phyloſophers to be the Mother or Principle of all Natural Generations, and in my opinion, the Internal redneſs of the ſaid Vitriol doth clearly manifeſt that generative blood of Nature with which ſhe doth ferment her ſeeds, and of thoſe fermented ſeeds, produce ſuch Varietys of beings, which makes ſuch a ſympathy between thoſe three Natural Families.

This Vitriol that has an acide Spirit, a burning or corroſive oyle, has alſo a ſweet red tincture in it, that is ſo friendly to Nature as to communicate to her all that ſhe wants both as to her preſervation and renovation, ſweetening all preternatural acides, purging its balſamick parts, from all outward adherences, and Vivifying of the ſuppreſſed Spirits, beſides it is generally known to be the greateſt opener and reſolver of obſtructions that is uſed in Phyſick.

This was the reaſon that I have made choice of this inward balſamick ſweetneſs of Vitriol, Impregnated with the diſſoluble Magiſters of Pearls to enter into this compoſition.

Of the Pearls.

Pearls are the concretion of the pureſt part of that Mucilaginous Liquour, that a certain ſhell Fiſh called Oyſter, draws from the Sea Water, which contains an Embrionated Salt, full of a Natural Balſome, and of a principle of Generation, which is communicated to it by means of the Air and Water, thoſe two great vehicles of the Univerſal ferment, this Gem is only found in thoſe Shells that are moſt Rugged, and that contain the Leaneſt and moſt languid Fiſh, which ſhews that in the production of this Jewel, it is deprived of that ſweet ſulphureous milky ſubſtance

ſtance, of which this object of Luxury and curioſity is perfected.

This concrete has ever been acknowledged both by ancient and modern Authors to be of a nature capable to free the Natural Balſum from all outward and inward inſultations, to reeſtabliſh the Languid ſtrength, to recreate and ſtimulate the Spirits, ſuppreſs Poyſons, the Plague, and all Putrid humours, by reaſon of the ſweetneſs of its ſulphur, which deads all the effects of theſe ſharp and ſaline ſeroſities, that prick and irretate the Membranous and Nervous parts, inflame the viſcera and prey upon the very ſpirits and Balſum of Life, whence are produced the Gout, Scurvy, Mange, Venereal diſeaſes, and the Leproſie, all which qualities have made me give place in this compoſition, for the ſoluble magiſter of Pearls.

Antimony.

This mineral abounds in a noble mineral ſulphur, it pertakes alſo of a metallick undigeſtible mercury, and a ſmall proportion of ſalt, it is call'd by ſome, the Gray Woolf, the black Eagle, the Dragon, the Leprous Gold, and by many other denominations.

Baſilius Valentinus ſays that it is of an Hermaphrodite nature, fix and volatil, in temperament hot, cold, dry, and moiſt, that there may be had from it a Medicine for every diſeaſe, beſides a general Panacea. he ſays further that there is as great a variety in goodneſs amongſt the divers ſorts of Antimonys, as there is difference between the fleſh of ſome Fiſhes and four footed Beaſts, which though agreeing in name, are of various differences, but the beſt he concludes to be that which comes from *Hungaria* full of long bright and glittering ſtrikes, and here and there tinged with a Purple and Gold Colour.

This Mineral as it comes from the Mines, is crude and undigeſted, and imbued with ſome malignant qualities, but not to be rejected, ſince that by due preparations its impurities may be ſeperated from its purer parts, its Homogenious principles from its Heterogenious adherences, and its Medicinal virtues, freed and purged from all venemous and offenſive qualities, therefore not to be deſpiſed, much leſs wholly rejected; for dayly experience teaches us, that Vipers, which are venemous in their own Nature, are notwithſtanding inſerted in the *Theriaca Andromachy* not without great ſucceſs, and that the bare ſuffocation of them in Wine, or in its Spirit, produces a ſovereign Antidote againſt all Poyſons, nay, what's more, by this bare Emergency, they become a teſt, by which ſuch medicaments as are dayly uſed as Catharticks, are examined, whether they be of a venemous nature.

It is not my intention hear to Impeach any particular Medicament, leaſt I ſhould add to the general adverſion againſt Phyſick, I have two much reſpect for it, and its learned Dogmatiſts, therefore only in general take this example, make choice of two perſons, as near as you can of one age, habit and complexion, give to the one an ordinary doſe of Viper Wine, to the other none, then adminiſter to each an ordinary doſe of a Cathartick Infuſion, and you will find, that the Perſon which took

took the Viper wine, shall not be moved, and the other sufficiently purged which clearly proves the Alexipharmicale peration of the *Vipers*, upon the noxious qualities of the said Cathartricks: which with pricking Volasil Salt irritates the expultrice faculty, and so provokes dejection, it being a Maxim, that none but fix qualities can expel fix diseases. Neither is it so much the driving forth by stools of the excrementitious peccant matter, which is so effectual as the Evacuations through the Emunctories by Sweats, Urines, and imperceptible perspirations.

Now this Preparation, which I have chosen here, being the most fix of all the Preparations of *Antimony*, for that very reason I have made choice of it, having in twenty years experience found it to be most efficacious against the Leprosy, the inveterate Itch, the Scurvy, and all Venereal diseases, as also in the Dropsy, and generally all obstructions, it purifies the Mass of blood, helps Melancholy, resists Poysons, opens Asthmaticks, heals Ulcerated lungs, cleanses the womb, helps Generation, and Conception, and is indowed with a renewing quality. Thus much of *Antimony*. And now,

Concerning Coral.

Coral is a stony Vegetation in the form of a Tree sticking fast unto rocks in the bottom of the Sea. There are chiefly two sorts, the White, and the Red, but this last is the best. There is some of other colours also, to be seen in the Closets of curious Persons, as Black, Yellow, Blew, and the like. As to the choice, the Male is the best, which is of a deep and clear Red; this Concrete, if well prepared, and opened, yields a Tincture, as red as blood; whose effects & vertues are to purify & refine the blood; it drives & cools, strengthens the Ventricle, and the Liver, but chiefly the Heart. It is good against the Plague, Poysons, and malignant Fevers, it recreates the spirits, stops all Fluxes, it is an excellent Anti-Epileptick, prevents Convulsions in Children, is soveraign in the Palpitation of the Heart, Fainting fits, Melancholy, Dropsy, Gout all which it performs through that Solar Tincture, which is communicated to it from Gold, in a great measure, which gives it the true and deserving Title of Preserver and Renewer.

Concerning Vipers.

The *Viper* is a Serpent, the most venemous of all Reptils, apt to be irritated, and when so, it drives in the twinckling of an eye from the vesicle of the gall to the gummi, through an almost imperceptible vessel, so spirituous and subtile a poyson, which insinuates and communicates it self so suddainly to the spirits, and the natural heat, that it so subtilely stupifies the parts, as it has bit; which poyson communicates it self immediately to the heart, and from thence to the brain by the means of Circulation.

The remedies which this Animal affords, are no less surprising & admirable, than its poyson, for it doth not only conquer its proper poyson, but enervates, & absolutely overcomes the strength & power of all the poisons that the three natural Families does produce; provided that these *Vipers* be well prepared, & administred in time and order.

This long-liv'd Animal, of so great substance, so abounding in a Balsamick Salt, doth not only renew those that frequently make use of its preparations,

but

but renews it self also, in order to which, towards the end of the year, when their food begins to fail them, they hide themselves under stones, and in the Earth, where they remain languid till the beginning of the next Spring, when so soon as they have fed upon the balsamick blades and sprouts of budding plants, refreshed themselves with the Aromatick Air, and cherished themselves in the Raies of the Life-giving Sun; they seek out rugged places to rub themselves against, and strip off their old skin, which they have no sooner laid by, but immediately possest with the sence thereof, and of its acquired benefit, it crawls more nimbly, and declares by the quickness and liveliness of its motion, & the Oriental colours of its new garment, that it is really renewed, and that by consequence, those remedies which it does yeild, can produce the same effects in humane bodies also.

The Virtues of this Animal are to strongly resist all poysons, they are good against Leprosy, all Venereal diseases, Consumptions, Hectick Feavers, but chiefly against the Scurvy, driving forth, through its Volatil Balsamick Salt, all the malignant serosities, which infect the mass of blood, the cause and fomenter of this popular disease, so raging at this very time amongst us.

Of the Roots of Sarsa, China, and of Saffron, Rosemary, and Lavender flowers.

These two Indian Roots are so frequently used, & well known to every vulgar eye, that I need not say much concerning them; I shall only in few words give you the reasons, why I have chosen them to enter into this Composition. They abound both in a fix Balsamick Salt, & in a *Fecula*, which is of a very drying, & healing quality; they are both Diuretick and Diaphoretick, friendly to the Liver, good against the Dropsy, Palsey, Gout, Head-ache, Jaundice, Greensickness, the Scurvy, & all Venereal diseases; they heal, and dry up all inward Ulcers, which makes them to be dayly used in all diseases which require exiccation.

Saffron is a flower which abounds in such Virtues, as are Analogick with the rest of those Ingredients which compose this noble *Balsum*; so that I should have done it wrong, not to have inserted it amongst the rest. It is a great Anodyne, a great Cleanser of the womb, a Cherisher of the Heart, a Dispilator of the Liver and Spleen, a great Provoker of Child-birth, and of what should immediately follow; it is esteemed the most sovereign Cordial of the Lungs, the actions of its Virtues being carried & distributed unto the very last digestions through the Circulation of the blood, and by respiration. It is a little *Panacea* against the Plague, & all other infections, & malignant diseases; a great Specifick in the Jaundice, good against the Apoplex, Asthmas, and fits of the Mother: in a word, it abounds in a Balsamick Sulphur, which is manifested by its exquisite odour, and, in a Magnetick salt, which makes that after it has been desiccated, it attracts to it self again from the ambient Air that Balsum, which affords it a fresh the same weight of body, the same vivacity of colours, and the same activity of odours, as it had at first, which is a thing worth observation.

The flower of *Rosemary*, which the *Greeks* call ἀνθος, by excellency does not come short of the Saffron; for not the flower only, but the leaves of the plant also, are totally Balsamick, which renders it a Specifick against all the diseases

of

of the head, and of the *Genus nervosum*, they strengthen the stomach, clear the Optick nerve, resolve & open all the obstructions of the Liver, Spleen, Womb, Mesentery, Pancreas, *&c.* They cleanse, and strengthen the Womb, help Conception, good against the Palsy, Apoplex, Convulsions, the yellow Jaundice, Greensickness, and the white Effluviums.

The Flowers of *Lavender* are absolutely devoted to the Brain, and *Genus nervosum*; Therefore excellent against Apoplex, Palsy, Trembling of Nerves, Cramps, Convulsions, Falling-sickness, fits of the Mother, and concussions of the Brains. All these three Flowers are also excellent in all Contusions, old Ulcers, Fistulas, outwardly applyed, especially in spirit of wine.

Of the Gumm Guajacum.

This *Gumm* which proceeds from a great Indian Tree is of so pure a Balsamick body, that it dissolves wholly in spirit of wine, leaving little, or no fæces at all behind it. It is drying and healing, and taken in a large quantity purges downwards; it's a great Sudorifick and Diuretick, and hath an Alexipharmical faculty: it is also cleansing, dissolving, and attenuating. All which qualities makes it a Specifick against Venereal diseases, for by these forementioned qualities, it purifies the blood, dryes up, and drives forth all superfluous moistures, heales all inward wounds, ulcers, and inflammations, strengthens the Nerves, resists putrefactions, augments the radical Balsum, and fortifies the stomach, and the Viscera', against all putrid humors, suppressing all preternatural ferments, strengthning the natural Acid. It cures the Dropsy, Asthma, or stuffing of the Lungs, Convulsion fits, all diseases of the Bladder & Reins, pains in the Joints, Gout, Flatulences, Crudities, & all Cronical diseases, especially such as have their being from cold and moist causes. It expels all gross and viscous humors, helps decay'd memory, Catarrhs, Deafness, Gripings, Colicks, Sterility, Cancers, or Ulcers of the Womb, and all cold humors.

It was in respect to this large Catalogue of its excellent Virtues, that I have elected it to be the basis of this *Balsamick* remedy, it being a Balsum in it self, proper against the *Scurvy*, and all venereal Deseases, as likewise a preserver and renovator.

Of Myrrhe.

Myrrh is of those Balsamick Gums, which are used for the Inbalming of Dead Bodys, for their preservation, from corruption, and Putrefaction; during many Ages, and seeing that through such properties, this Gum has a peculiar Energy of preservation, I thought I could not err by introducing it among the rest of our Balsamick Ingredients, as a preserver, as well as in respect to its other excellent Virtues, for it is such a resister of all putrid and corrupt humours, and all accidents and diseases that result from thence, that it is dayly used in all those diseases, that proceed from corruption and putrefaction, as in the *Scurvy* all Venereal diseases, *Poysons*, *Putrid Feavers*, *Small Pox*, and the like, it is a Cephalick Specifick, it drives all impurities from the Womb, the dead Child, also Facilitates Childbirth, &, what should Immediately follow it, and helps conception; Provokes Generation, strengthens the Nerves, and is a sovereign Antidote against the Plague.

It was not therefore without good reasons that I have admited it to a considerable quantity in this Potable Balsum of Life.

Some ſhort but neceſſary reflections upon the meanes of Preſervation and Renovation.

The reaſons why I have given the name of Balſum of Life to this excellent compoſition, are becauſe this Medicament is not a bare remedy for the cure of diſeaſes, but that alſo through its admirable Virtues, and qualities, it is a preſerver of Life, by the means of its Balſamick Principles, and great Virtues in Renovation, but becauſe there are divers Perſons that will not allow of Preſervers, and eſpecially of renewers; I will indeavour (in as few words as I can poſſible) to aſſert it. In order to this (that thoſe to whom I addreſs this diſcourſe may the better reliſh what I ſhall ſay hereafter; I would deſire them to reflect a little upon the dayly method in preſervation of dead bodys, ſuch as are wholly deprived of all inward aſſiſting qualitys, which are nevertheleſs ſo preſerved, through the aſſiſtance of ſome Medicaments as to be kept from Putrefaction for many after ages, and then I hope) they will be more inclined to approve, and allow, of a preſerving and prolonging power in ſuch Balſamick remedy, as may be adminiſtred to living bodys ſuch as are replenished with vital Spirits, and a Native Balſum of Life.

Now whereas our Nature (according to the opinion of the learned) cannot renew her ſelf without the aid and aſſiſtance of ſome Medicaments, by reaſon of her own inſufficiency, in the ſeperation & extraction, of a pure & clear Quinteſſence from her ordinary and uſual food, whereby to renew her ſelf, we muſt conclude, that theſe aſſiſters, hold the place of Preſervers and Renovators.

For could nature make a pure extraction from the Aliments, ſuch a one as would be required for Renovation, it would be contented with very little proportion, whereas on the contrary ſhe does dayly crave a large quantity of the ſaid Aliments to ſupply her ſelf withal, whereby an abundance of impurities are diſtributed throughout the whole body, which puts her to a continual Labour in the expelling of them again.

This its deficiency is dayly manifeſted by a continued viſſicitude of Lapſies into divers ſorts of diſtempers, but could ſhe extract any ſuch excellency from the aliments, life would then be a continued ſeries of health, without alteration.

Now ſince our Nature is deſtitute of ſuch qualities, & too Weak & deficient in her ſelf, to attain to ſuch a height of perfection, by her peculiar fire, & the Inſtruments of her own Laboratory, Medicine muſt be invited to her Ayd, with refined Balſamick and Spirituous Medicaments, ſuch as Almighty God (who has promiſed length of Dayes) through his immenſe goodneſs to Mankind has ordained for preſervation and prolongation of Life, whence may be concluded a neceſſity of ſuch preſervatives in Nature, whereby our humane Nature, being ſupported and exalted by a pure Quinteſſence the ſphear of her activity may be expatiated beyond its Natural extent, and limits, both for the preſervation and prolongation of Life.

In the Chymical anatomy of Blood, the fixt Salt is found in a leſs quantity than the Volatil, which fix ſalt is a powerful principle, whoſe Balſamick parts, are ſo abſolutely neceſſary to Life, that the durance thereof is to be meaſured by the ſtandard of its quantity and quality, ſo that according as any living being does abound more or leſs in this fix ſalt, it doth accordingly continue more or leſs, and requires leſs nutriment, this is moſt particularly evinced in the

the Viper, an Animal of great abſtinence, and long Life, out of two ounces of whoſe Fleſh, has been extracted, a dram of Balſamick Salt.

What I have ſaid either concerning this Salt, or in reference to the preſervers and renovators, is without derogating in the leaſt from the *Archeus* that ſervent Spirit and Prince of Life which reſides in us, who aſſiſted by its Balſum, and concurring with the reſults of the exterior reſtoratives, does Viſit, inlighten, and comfort, all the Parts and render them partakers of the effects of its Virtues, but whereas this ſaid ſpirit does keep its chief reſidence in the more noble parts, where all its Virtues are treaſured up, and in which its faculties do ſhine with a greater luſtre, influence, and Authority, the preſervatives have likwiſe a greater power upon, and ſympathy with the noble than with the Inferiour and ſubjected parts,

Now whereas the Heart firſt agent of the Blood does extract a too ſmall proportion of this fix ſalt out of the Nutriment to ſufficiently ſupply all the parts withal, and that the Volatil ſalt does evaporate too faſt, and is too eaſily diſſipated, Whereby the ſaid parts remain in a continual craving. If that a Quinteſſence does add Energy, both in quantity and quality, to the Balſamick Salt, and ſuppreſs the Subtil Evaporation of the Voltatils of neceſſity preſervative and prolongation muſt be adjudged as infallibly as neceſſarily ſame

Theſe things rightly Conſidered I am of opinion, that to deny the exiſtency of preſervers and Renovators, amongſt plants, Animals and Minerals, is to oppoſe experience, maintained by reaſon, and confirmed by divers Antient and Modern Authentique Authors.

I ſhall no longer inſiſt upon this Theme leaſt it ſhould ſwell this little Piece beyond my firſt intention, the rather, ſince many have treated at large upon this Subject, but they have involv'd it (for the moſt part) in ſo many circumſtances, and accompanied it with ſuch a numerous variety of Nicitys which has elevated it beyond the reach of Vulgar capacities, and rendered it ſo intricate, and of ſo difficult an acquiſition, that but few will attempt the purchaſe, at ſuch a troubleſome rate, whilſt that man, (who naturally aſpires to glory) wants but diligence to ſearch, with courage to execute, he being already endowed with reaſon to underſtand, that he is in poſſeſſion of that Inſtrument of Inſtruments, the hand to perform, and that kind and plentiful Nature is at hand to ſupply him withal requiſite materials, to operate upon, imploring only the ingenious Artiſts Care and Diligence.

Of the Qualities and Virtues of this Balſum.

It is now time I ſhould give you an account of the ſingular properties and virtues of this Exquiſite Balſum of Life, which I ſhall do as ſuccinctly as its various Energies and natures will permit.

It diſſolves and opens all obſtructions, drives forth all impurities, Heales inward bruiſes, ſores, wounds, or ulcers, ſuppreſſes all evil ferments, ſtrengthens all the viſcera, and the ſences, recreates the Spirits, reeſtabliſhes and augments the natural heat and radical humide, pureſies the blood and natural Balſum, reſiſts all corruptions and putrefactions, cleanſes the reins, bladder, and womb, and drys the ſuperfluities thereof, helps conception, provokes the Terms, yet drys up the white effluviums. Accelerates Childbirth, and drives forth what ſhould follow, combats all Poyſons, corroborates the whole body, and ſtrengthens and renews nature.

Theſe

These Qualities and Virtues render it of power to resist and suppress the violence of some, & to radically extirpate, & absolutely cure others of these following Diseases.

All Headaches.	*Jaundice. Gout,*	*Green-sickness.*
Distiness.	*Consumption. All Agues.*	*Gripings.*
Plagues.	*Convulsions Hectick Feavers.*	*Stone. and Gravil.*
Leprosy.	*Apoplex. Melancholy.*	*Stuffings of the Lungs.*
Scurvy	*Falling sickness. Wind.*	*Ulceration of the Lungs.*
All Venereal diseases.	*Palsy. Indigestions.*	*Barrenness.*
Dropsy.	*Cramps.*	*Colicks.*

and to be used by all such as are accustomed to take of those Pills which they call the Drunkey Pills, or Pills of good fellowship.

This balsum is no less excellent outwardly applyed for the cure of Cancerous, cavernous, Venereal Ulcers, and Fistulas, applying it with Lint upon the Sore, or injecting of it in the cavities which it performes at the farthest at the third dressing, but somtimes at the very first application, applying over it only some sort of desiccative Plaister, and dessicates all wounds as are difficult to be cured through a flux of humours. It dissipates and dispersses all Venereal Nodes, and those little scurfy and dry pustulas or scabs on the head, face, or any other part of the body.

Allays the pains of the Gout and Cramps.

Heals all concussions, contusions, Sprains, cold aches, contracted nerves, weakness of joynts and limbs, and the dead Palsy.

Discusses all hard cancerous & scrophulous tumours, by chafing of it into the Part with a warm hand, and in the nape of the neck also; as also for gripings, colicks, and the worms chafing the belly and navel with it.

Thus much concerning the Virtues & Qualities of this Balsum, now a word or two concerning the preparation of the body for its reception, as also some instructions in the administration of it, and of its doses, and so conclude.

According to the intention and nature of the distemper, so must the body be prepared and disposed for the reception of this specifick in gross plethorick bodys, there is required more circumstantial preparations then others; in such persons care must be had not to stir up the humours too hastily, nor to let them remain long in the body after once set in motion, lest through a new fermentation, they should create new diseases, and produce putrid Feavers. But because I have limited this Discourse to two or three sheets of Paper, and that I desire all persons to relye upon the consultations and advices of their own experienced Physitians, though I had much to say upon this subject, I shall forbare it, and only in compassion to such as live in Country Towns, far remote from Physitians, or that cannot reach to the charge of a Physitians Fees, I shall set down some few Rules.

If the partys design is but to prevent or intercept the growth of some budding distemper, or for preservation & renovation, & that he hath lately taken some purging medicament, or that his stomach is clean of it self, as also in time of infection against the Plague, or any other infectious diseases, there is no use for preparatives.

But if the Person aimes at the rooting out, and curing of some distemper. Then it is necessary first to cleanse the stomach, which according to its soulness and repletion, is to be done either by vomits or purgations, and if requisite

by both. The beſt of Vomits for this purpoſe is the *Vinum Benedictum*, and infuſion of *Crocus Metallorum*, or of glaſs of *Antimony*, as alſo the *Antimonial Cup*, in the *Dropſy*, *Jaundice*, *Aſthmat*, *Melancholy*, *Green-Sickneſs*, and the like. In the *Scurvy*, *Gout*, and all Venereal Diſeaſes, make uſe of *Mercurius Vitæ*; well and rightly prepared, and in all Cephalick, or Diſeaſes of the Head and Nerves, as Convulſions, Palſies, Apoplex, and the like, make uſe of the Salt of *white Vitriol*. But becauſe theſe vomits are not to be had every where, (eſpecially in the Country) ſo well and duly prepared as they ſhould be; I will take care to provide ſome in the Laboratory of my own preparing with all care and circumſpection. As concerning Purges, they being to be had from the Vegetables in every Druggiſt or Apothecarys Shop, and appropriated to the reſpective diſtempers, I ſhall not mention them. As concerning the taking of this *Balſum* in the cure of Venereal diſeaſes, the Scurvy, the Gout, Apoplex, Palſies of the head and tongue, Wind, Colicks, Gripings, Faintings, and Mother fits, and Wind in the ſtomach. Though this *Balſum* (through the penetrating quality of the *Gumm Guajacum*) is hot and biting in the mouth and throat; I would adviſe all ſuch as can bare with it, to take it without any mixture, and to drink preſently after it a glaſs of white wine, or of ſome appropriated Liquor to the diſtemper, becauſe that in the mixing of it with any other Liquor before it is in the body, makes it immediately turn white, and ſtick, and precipitate to the bottom of the veſſel that containes it, which alteration (though it does not deſtroy its virtues) yet retards for ſome time its active and nimble penetration, which is much required in the foremention'd diſeaſes.

But in all other caſes it is to be dropped according to its doſe in ſome liquors, appropriated to the diſtempers, and ſweetned with ſome ſyrup; or if you will make it a moſt pleaſant and delitious drink, take eight times the proportion of white wine, as is the doſe you are to take of the Balſum, and drop the ſaid proportion of Balſum into it, ſweeten it at your pleaſure with ſugar, or ſome pleaſant ſyrup, ſtir and mix all well together, and it will be like a ſpiced draught of new milk and ſugar in taſt, ſmell, and looks.

If there be any that had rather take this Balſum in extract or pills they muſt put the proportion of a doſe in a ſilver ſpoon (if it will contain it) but if the doſe be more than one ſpoonful, fill your ſpoon firſt, and ſet it at ſuch a diſtance, as it may not fire over a Candle, or kindled coals, and as it evaporates away, add more till you have the juſt doſe; which dry up to ſuch a conſiſtence, that being mixt with a little loave ſugar or ſugar Candy in pouder, may be made up into a Pill or Bolus.

Thoſe that are deſirous to keep by them their whole proportion of Balſum in an Extract, let them ſet it in a ſilver or earthen glaſed Cup or Pot in warm water, and let it ſtand there till it be evaporated to that thickneſs, but obſerve that in the keeping it grows hard in ſucceſs of time which may be ſoftened again by ſetting of it in warm water as before, with addition of very ſtrong ſpirit of wine.

As concerning its Doſes, I ſhall inſiſt upon them as given to a body of a ſtrong conſtitution, which all perſons are to alter in adding or diminiſhing